

CLAIMS

1. A method for enabling a mobile communications device to transition from a first wireless communications network to a second wireless communications network, comprising the steps of:

generating in the second network a second network synchronization channel having a prescribed pattern unique to the second network; and

broadcasting the second network synchronization channel for receipt at a common receiver in the mobile communications device together with a first network synchronization channel to enable to the mobile communications device to synchronize with, and transition to, the second wireless communications network.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the generating step comprises the step of generating a Primary- Synchronization Channel of a type utilized within the first wireless communications network for cell searching.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the generating step comprises the step of generating a Secondary - Synchronization Channel of a type utilized within the first wireless communications network for achieving frame synchronization and scrambling code detection in connection with a cell search.

4. A method of operating a mobile communications device to enable a seamless transition from a first wireless communications network to a second wireless communications network, comprising the steps of:

receiving at a common receiver in the mobile communications device a second network synchronization channel from the second wireless communications network together with a first network synchronization channel from the first wireless communications network; the second network synchronization channel having a pattern unique to the second wireless communications network;

establishing the identity of the second wireless communications network by matching the pattern of second network synchronization channel with the pattern associated with the second wireless communications network; and

transitioning to the second communications network after the identity thereof has been established.

5. The method according to claim 4 wherein the establishing step is performed while the mobile communications device operates in a Frequency Division Duplex mode.

6. The method according to claim 4 wherein the establishing step is performed while the mobile communications device operates in a Time Division Duplex Mode.

7. The method according to claim 4 wherein the second network synchronization signal comprises a Primary-Channel Synchronization Channel of a type utilized within the first wireless communications network for cell searching.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the second network synchronization signal comprises a Secondary -Channel Synchronization Channel of a type utilized within the first wireless communications network for achieving frame synchronization and scrambling code detection in connection with a cell search.

9. In combination with a wireless Local Area Network (LAN) having at least one access point for exchanging information with a mobile communications device capable of communicating with a wireless telephony network,

a basic transmitter for transmitting a wireless LAN synchronization signal second for receipt at a common receiver in the mobile communications device together with a first synchronization channel transmitted by the wireless telephony network to enable to the mobile communications device to synchronize with, and transition to, the wireless LAN.

10. The transmitter according to claim 9 wherein the second network synchronization channel comprises a Primary- Synchronization Channel of a type utilized within the wireless telephony network for cell searching.

11. The method according to claim 9 wherein the generating step comprises the step of generating a Secondary- Synchronization Channel of a type utilized within the first wireless

communications network for achieving frame synchronization and scrambling code detection in connection with a cell search.